

BROOKLYN TABERNACLE

BIBLE STUDIES

WITHOUT A PARABLE HE SPAKE NOT.

July 10.

"The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."—John 6:63.

WITHOUT a parable spake he not unto the people. What the prophet had declared of him was true, "He shall open his mouth in parables and in dark sayings." It is important that we remember this. Many noble Christian people have inferred that our Lord's words were all simple, and that they presented the truth in a manner easily understood by everybody. Nothing is further from the truth. If our Lord's parables and dark sayings be taken as plain, literal statements of truth, they will lead to all kinds of errors and misapprehensions. Let us remember, therefore, the Apostle's declaration, "Without a parable spake he not unto the people."

There is absolutely nothing in the words of Jesus without a deep significance. How many have stumbled over our Lord's parables by taking them to be literal statements of facts! How absurd the conclusion drawn from the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, for instance. How absurd to conclude that simply because a man was rich, he was doomed to eternal damnation, and was garbed in fine linen, that he must suffer through all eternity. How equally absurd to interpret the poor man Lazarus, who lay at the rich man's gate, as representing, literally, poor and diseased beggars. How unreasonable to think that only such as have had an experience of this kind, with dogs to lick their sores, and hungering for the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, would experience the joys of heaven, according to the Divine program. How foolish to think of Abraham's bosom, which could hold only two or three, as being the port of blessing for only a handful of beggars.

Truly these various statements of the parable show out in beauty and consistency as we get the true light upon them, and see their symbolic meaning and application. We have already presented the true interpretation of this parable, and may do so again at some future time, for the benefit of new readers. We merely demonstrate now the fact that our Lord spoke to the people always in parables and dark sayings.

Note afresh the parable of the wheat and the tares, the gathering of the former into the garner and the burning of the latter. Neither represents literal experience. In the parable the wheat is not literal wheat, the tares are not literal tares. The wheat symbolizes the inheritors of the Kingdom; the tares symbolize the offspring of error—children of the wicked one. The gathering into the barn of safety symbolizes the glorification of the Church on the spirit plane, and precedes the shining forth of the sons of God in the glory of the Millennial Kingdom, for the blessing of the growing creation; as the Apostle declares, "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God." The whole creation is waiting for the shining forth of the sons of God in the Kingdom, and their shining forth in truth and righteousness will scatter all the darkness of sin and error and awaken and revivify the world of mankind.

Eventually all the willingly obedient may enjoy the blessings of eternal life. On the other hand, the description of the burning of the tares, instead of referring to the literal burning, has, evidently, a symbolic significance—it means the destruction of the tare class—not their destruction as individuals, but as "tares," as imitations of the "wheat" class.

How glad we are to find the key to these symbolic statements—these parables. How glad we are that by the use of this key the parabolic figures become reasonable and beautiful. What a silver lining there is to the dark cloud of trouble which is now looming up before the world! How glad God's people must be to learn that just beyond the clouds and shadows comes the glorious Millennial day.

The parable of "the sheep and the goats," taken literally, has caused confusion to many. They think of the separation of the sheep and the goats as now in progress, failing to notice the Scriptural declaration that the parable shall find its application "when the Son of man shall come in his glory and all his holy angels (messengers) with him. Then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory and before him shall be gathered all nations, and he shall separate them one from another as the shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." We thus see that the application of the parable belongs to the Millennial age. All through that age the work of Christ and the Church, his Bride, seated with him upon his throne, will be a work of blessing to the world of mankind. And the manner in which those blessings will be received will demonstrate the sheep-like or goat-like character of every individual of the human family. The sheep-like will come to the right hand position of favor; the goat-like, to the left hand position of disfavor. The conclusion of the thousand-year Judgment day will bring the expression of the Lord's favor towards the sheep-like, rewarding them with eternal life, and the expression of his disfavor towards the goat-like, destroying them in the "second death." This is symbolically represented by the statement, "Depart ye cursed into the burning fire (a figure of destruction) prepared for Satan and his messengers (followers)." The reward of the righteous will thus be everlasting life. The "everlasting punishment" of the unrighteous will be everlasting death, for "The wages of sin is death and the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."—Romans 6:23.

Evidently some wise and gracious purpose stands connected with the hiding or secreting at present of the Divine purpose from mankind in general. While the Scriptures declare it is a mark of special favor to the Lord's people that they are made acquainted with the Divine Purposes, yet nowhere do they declare that all those from whom God's plans are secreted are doomed to eternal torture, or to everlasting destruction. Thus our Lord Jesus prayed: "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight."

Had the hiding of the Divine counsel from mankind signified eternal tortures for those from whom it was hidden, there surely would have been no ground for thanking the heavenly Father for this act. We can thank him, however, that although many of the worldly wise are not privileged to know of his glorious plans, nevertheless those plans are sure. For the world to have known of the divine purposes in advance would doubtless have been injurious, because in their blindness they would have attempted to thwart these purposes and therefore would have gotten themselves into a worse condition of condemnation.

Our text shows that however dark and parabolic were our Lord's teachings, nevertheless, rightly understood, his message is one that is spiritually helpful and life-giving to those who can and do understand it. It is this quality of our Lord's message which makes the religion of the Bible different from that of all the heathen. It is a message of life as well as a message of holiness. It is a message of forgiveness as well as a message of condemnation. It is a message of love as well as a message of justice. His wonderful words of life are charming, beautiful, forceful. We may read them over year after year and we see still more beauty in them, still deeper significance, and that in proportion to our own growth in grace, our growth in knowledge, and in the spirit of our Master.

BARNBROCK, KY.

Our farmers are all busy with their crops. Everybody is interested in the raising of tobacco this year and most of the tobacco crops are fine.

A. M. Lyon has begun a large tobacco barn, which will be completed soon.

Quite a number of people were at church at Nelson Collier's Saturday night. The services were carried on by Rev. Hig Holbrook, Wm. M. Diles, and Frank Smith.

Harrison Osborn and Henderson Skaggs of Red Bush, were visiting at Jeff Lester's Saturday night.

Rev. William Lester, of this place was visiting relatives at Terryville Sunday.

Margaret Lyon, of Terryville, is visiting her son, A. M. Lyon, this week.

Vinson is working for Frank Smith this week.

John C. Skaggs, Lant Skaggs, Thomas Fyffe and others, of this place attended church at Keaton Sunday.

A few days ago death visited our little village and carried away Stel-

la Fyffe, who had for some time been troubled with tuberculosis.

Frank Smith was at White House Saturday.

Rev. Hig Holbrook, who moved to Greenup county last winter, has returned and is one of our foremost citizens in all respect.

Millard Kelley and family, Clinton Lyon, Frank Smith, John Barker, and Bill McKenzie were the guests of Isaac Gillem Sunday.

The corn crops in our neighborhood are exceedingly fine as compared with the crops of other localities.

Sanford Lyon and wife were visiting Edward Lyon Saturday.

Harrison McKenzie of Keaton, passed through our town Friday evening.

James Collier was visiting at Manie Saturday and Sunday.

James McKenzie and Lewis Green went to Fleming with a drove of cattle.

All our girls and boys are preparing to enter school, they are glad their work is almost done and that school will soon begin.

Lyonrock.

NOTES OF THE FARM.

COLUMN OF INTERESTING NEWS THAT WILL BENEFIT FARMERS.

The Poultry Yard.

Let other folks do the fancy poultry business. You stick to practical work.

Keep the brooder perfectly clean, and always feed the chicks in a clean place if you want them to live and thrive.

The baby ducks are just as well off, in fact better, without water to swim in until they have grown their crop of feathers.

Keep your hens from straying over on the land of your neighbor. Be particular about this if he has any crop growing there.

Give the houses a good cleaning, and plow or spade up the yards. Dirty houses breed vermin, and polluted soils are incubators for the gape worm.

Give the turkey hen and her brood at coop large enough for the mother to move about and stand erect in, and you won't be so apt to have bad luck.

Guinea fowls will now be laying, and a watch must be kept on their nests, as it is their nature to hide them. The eggs had better be hatched by hens.

It's annoying, perhaps, just about supper time, to have to stop to wash dirty eggs when the hen breaks one, but this is a task that must not be put off until tomorrow.

If fowls must run at large on range over a farm, by all means keep one breed, and give them all the time, knowledge and attention possible. You will have something of which you may be proud, and that will profit you financially, as well.

Because hens are out on the land now do not therefore think they do not need shells and such things. They may not be able to find a bit of that kind of food in all their travels. A shortage here is apt to mean a shortage in eggs with good shells on them.

This is the month that gapes are more or less prevalent on heavy oaks. Chicks should not be brooded on the same ground that was accorded to chicks afflicted with the disease last year. Place them on ground that was never before used by poultry.

When hens begin to lay soft-shelled eggs it is time to ask yourself, "Where am I failing to give them the food they need?" Don't be satisfied until you can answer that question. Almost always it is due to a lack of shell-making material.

Wheat bran, crushed egg-shells, cut bone, broken mortar and oyster shells are fine for making eggs with good solid shells.—Farm Journal.

Good Farming.

Because of the inability to stir the surface completely with large shovels without running them very deeply, they are fast falling into disuse with progressive corn growers. The small shovel does a more correct average quality of work throughout the season, although where persistent early rains delay cultivation and befoul the land so that a desperate fight with weeds is imperative they may be used to advantage. Good farming with its elimination of weed seed from the soil obviates the necessity for such heroic measures. The surface cultivator that carries a sharp blade under every square inch of the surface soil is also an effective weed fighter under all conditions and it spares the corn roots from disturbance. For effectively stirring the soil to some depth at the first cultivation and still do shallow work later in the season, many successful growers favor the gangs carrying three shovels. Four shovels on a side do scarcely any smoother job of work and they catch trash more persistently.

Whatever the type of cultivator, the operator should carry a vivid mental picture of a soil crowded full of corn roots, increasing in numbers as the season advances. It is not a serious thing to cut off one of these, but to repeat that 10,000 times to the acre, or 100,000 times a day, is nearly as bad as taking ear after ear from the crib and throwing it away. An ignorant man turned loose with a cultivator in big corn can practically destroy a load of corn a day in this way.

Fences in good repair add materially to the appearance of the farm.

A Study in Ruminat.

There is enough about the dairy question to challenge the thought and brain of the strongest intellects of the land. The farm boy doesn't need to rush off to the law school for something large enough to fill his mind. He can

find it every day on the farm. Here is one:

H. A. W. writes Wallace's Farmer this bit of good thinking under the head of a "Study in Ruminat."

The herdsman of a big dairy farm told us several days ago that the first thing he fed his cows in the morning was hay. We asked him why, and he said to us, "So that they can throw up their feed easier later on for the end chewing; if you feed a cow grain the first thing in the morning it will lie heavy and soggy on the stomach and the cow acts uncomfortable and discontented all day."

Hay, especially rather coarse hay, gives something that a cow's stomach muscles can grip and throw up to the mouth when the cow gets ready to re-chew her food. Placid end chewing has long been a symbol in the dairy of contentment and big returns in the milk pail. If by feeding hay first thing in the morning we can further a cow's contentment and increase her milk flow it will pay to give it a trial.

The herdsman also made the statement that he had seen when in England many calves die because they had been fed June grass hay, a soft, fine hay. And the reason which the herdsman gave for this was that the tender stomach muscles of the calves couldn't get a hold of the soft June grass hay to throw it up to the mouth. Therefore he always fed his calves a coarse type of roughage. Furthermore, for the same reason, he held that calves should be fed whole grain instead of the ground.

Watch Results.

The day of haphazard guessing in any kind of business has passed and the successful man is the one who knows and watches every detail and which one is producing a profit and which one is a loss. So it should be with the poultry keeper. He should know every hen and what she is doing. If non-producing she should be sent to the market at once. It costs money to feed her and she is only lessening the average profit from the remainder of the flock. A few hens in a flock that do not lay, will make the whole flock unprofitable and will often discourage the owner, and make him think there is no money in the poultry business. After a short time, one can tell which hens are doing their duty, and he should lose no time in getting rid of the drones. If he can do so, if not he should send them to the market.

When to Begin Feed.

Many poultry breeders make the mistake of feeding young chicks when only a few hours old, and by so doing disarrange the digestive organs and bring about diarrhoea and other kindred disorders. Nature, in her inimitable way, has prepared the chick so that it does not need any food for thirty-six or forty-eight hours. The chicks need to be kept warm and quiet, but not given any food or drink.

After they are thirty-six hours old they should have stale bread or crackers, or rolled oats, slightly dampened with milk or water, in which a little chick-size grit has been mixed. This should then be fed about four or five times a day for the first week, then they will eat cracked corn or wheat the same as older fowls.

Notes.

For want of a system many poultry men are failures. Keep a strict account of every cost, and do all your work at regular times and you will then find a profit at the end of each year.

Don't try to keep more than one breed, you can then give more room and more care to that one.

Neglect is the worst enemy to the poultry yard. At this season one is apt to feel that all the work is done, when in reality it has just begun. They say "A woman's work is never done," so it is in the poultry yard.

Make the hens come up to the scratch and keep them at it. The busy hen keeps the egg basket full.

Incubators will soon pay for themselves by allowing the hens to keep on laying instead of hatching and raising broods.

Repairing Orchard Trees.

An excellent practice noted in well-kept Ohio orchards is the treatment of trees which are splitting or threatening to split from their burden of fruit or as a result of heavy wind.

There are purchased what is known to the trade as "lag" or "coach" screws—large, square-headed screws which can be gotten in various sizes. Those preferred are six inches in length and three-eighths of an inch in diameter, which I find are priced at \$1.25 per 100, or 26 cents per dozen. A blacksmith turns a hook at the head-

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ends of the screws. Holes are bored in the two parts of the tree which are separating, in which the screws are solidly turned, connecting them with a heavy wire cable. The screws should be given such a position that there will be a "straight pull" on them, thus eliminating danger of splitting the branch. The cable is formed by using two "rounds" of heavy, galvanized wire from hook to hook, which is then twisted up taut by inserting between the wires a piece of buggy spring or other flat piece of iron or wood, and turning until the divisions of the tree are brought in close contact at the point of separation.—By E. H. Ballou.

Garrett B. Wall Promoted.

Richmond, Va., June 29.—An official circular issued from the office of President Stevens, of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway, today announces the promotion of Garrett B. Wall to Assistant to the President. Mr. Wall has been for years Real Estate Agent in charge of real estate taxation and industrial development along the Chesapeake and Ohio. He joined the forces of the road in June '89 as a clerk in the office of then General Manager Harahan. Mr. Wall is one of the best known and most popular railroad men in the south and wherever his promotion is made known will cause pleasure to his friends. Mr. Wall is generally regarded as a strong man with broad principles and a well established reputation for fair dealing, and, while a native of Kentucky, graduated from Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va. Mr. Wall's promotion becomes effective July 1st.

Old Papers for sale at this office.

WALBRIDGE.

There was church at this place Saturday night and Sunday by Rev. James Harvey.

Miss Nannie See of Lick creek, was visiting her cousin, Miss Stella Wellman.

Misses Gypse Thompson and Kizzie See spent Sunday with Miss Kizzie See.

Miss Ora Cornuttie was visiting Miss Mary Burk Saturday evening. Charlie Grant had business in Louisa Wednesday.

James Caperton, of Red Jacket, is spending this week with his mother.

Miss Mamie See was calling on her sister, Mrs. V. B. Wellman Wednesday night.

Karl Compton was calling on friends Sunday evening.

Mrs. Sam Fox was calling on her sister, Mrs. N. L. See Tuesday.

Country Cousins.

Polluted Water.

Dr. Frost, who was sent by the Government to make an examination and scientific study of the water of Tug river, has made his report. Dr. Frost made a bacteriological study of the water of the river, and also of numerous springs and wells in Williamson and found all highly polluted. The only water that he found free from bacteria being that from the deep drilled well at the Williamson Coal Company's plant. Some of the local wells showed almost as high a degree of pollution as the river water.

Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets gently stimulate the liver and bowels to expel poisonous matter, cleanse the system, cure constipation and sick headache. Sold by all dealers.

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